

DRAFT

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BLACK POWER
A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Most of the ideas, plans, and programs of today have been thought of - and tried - before. From economic organization (Booker T. Washington and Marcus Garvey) to black politics (Reconstruction governments) to arms (slave revolts). Yet none have been successful in liberating black people.

After 400 years in America, black people have no organization of continuity and purpose addressed to their specific needs. Each generation has repeated the mistakes of each preceding one. The fact though that our ideas are the same as our forefathers means that:

- 1-basically, our situation has not changed, and
- 2-we have not profited from their experience.

WHAT WE MUST DO

Any movement for genuine freedom must be based on the true conditions of black life in America. It must therefore fight against:

- 1-white supremacy, and
- 2-black corruption and disunity.

It must fight for:

- 1-the human expression, physical protection, and social, economic, and political advancement of black people.
- 2-the replacement of existing institutions. (Our communities are neglected; we are cheated in "our neighborhood stores" by whites from the suburbs while the police shoot and brutalize us in the streets. We have no jobs, except those whites don't want or that aid them in controlling us. Our schools are rotten and our children educated falsely. All of these things happen because white America controls its community - AND OURS TOO. We must therefore create new ways of meeting our needs, for the old ones have perpetuated our dependency.)
- 3-a common understanding of our situation which will enable us to work in behalf of our own self-interest rather than what others tell us our interest is.

WHAT WE MUST UNDERSTAND

We must understand:

- 1-the interests of Black America and White America are not naturally the same. (Slavery was, and is, good for White America; it was, and is, not good for us.)
- 2-the movement for justice and self-determination must be carried on however long is necessary until victory is won.
- 3-the commitment to the movement for change begins first with admitting the need to change ourselves. (For what stands between us and liberty are the corruptions we hate learned from America and taken as our own.)

WHO IS NEEDED

The purpose of struggle is to liberate and uplift the race, not to achieve personal reward. None will be free until all are free. In the movement to free all, individualism is misplaced. Thus only the unselfish and the serious are needed.

(If interested, call/write.....)